

T-731  
Harper Cottage  
St. Michaels  
Private

c. 1910

The Harper cottage is a small single story wood shingled frame house that stands in the center of St. Michaels on the north side of Grace Street. Local town tradition relates that this building was a garage originally and it was moved to this site when it was converted to a house. Detailed with early twentieth century features, such as the pedimented porch and six-over-six sash windows, this small house contributes to the historic character of Grace Street.

Older residents recall this property under the ownership of William G. and Katie Mae Harper. Harper family interest in the property was established in 1943 when the house and lot were purchased by William B. and T. Walter Harper.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-731

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common HARPER COTTAGE

## 2. Location

street & number 101 Grace Street ☐ not for publication

city, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 368

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 432

city, town Easton state MD 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-731

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move ? _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Harper cottage is located at 101 Grace Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The single story frame dwelling faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Apparently this small house was formerly a garage and moved to this site with intentions of converting it into a house. Dating to around 1910, the structure is supported by a minimal foundation that is covered with imitation rusticated block metal sheets. Sheathed with a layer of wood shingles the gable front roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation is a basically symmetrical facade with a center entrance sheltered by a gable front porch supported on square posts. The entrance is filled with a partially glazed door. The door is flanked by six-over-six sash windows. A small pointed arch window marks the gable front wall above the entrance, and the eaves to the roof are slightly extended. An interior brick stack rises through the east side of the main block.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-731

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Harper cottage is a small single story wood shingled frame house that stands in the center of St. Michaels on the north side of Grace Street. Local town tradition relates that this building was a garage originally, and it was moved to this site when it was converted into a house. Detailed with early twentieth century features, such as the pedimented porch and six-over-six sash, <sup>this</sup> small house ~~building~~ contributes to the historic character of Grace Street.

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

At the moment it is not exactly certain when the former garage was moved to Grace Street and converted into a house, but the exterior architectural details suggest the remodeling of the structure occurred during the early to mid twentieth century. Older residents recall this property under the ownership William G. and Katie Mae Harper. Harper interest in the property was established in 1943 when the house and lot were purchased by William B. and T. Walter Harper. (256/289)

Survey No. T-731

## PS-2746

*HARPER Cottage*

101 GRACE STREET

YEAR: 1961 VOL: 368 PAGE: 432  
FROM: Harry E. Clark and Ellen C. Clark  
TO : William G. Harper and Katie Mae Harper  
NOTES: Of two parcels on the deed, this is parcel one. It is 41 feet on the N side of Grace Street running back parallel 73 feet to James T. Morris. Bounded on W by the heirs of Denny Williams and on the E by S. Hambleton Harrison. Conveyed to Clark by Harpers 1961, 368/429 (clearance)  
Conveyed to Harpers by Gillis 1952, 295/253.

YEAR: 1952 VOL: 295 PAGE: 253  
FROM: Lee S. Gillis and Florence Marie Gillis  
TO : William B. Harper and William G. Harper  
NOTES: Same decription.  
Conveyed to Gillis by Harpers 1952, 295/251 (clearance)  
Conveyed to Harpers by Willis 1943, 256/289.

YEAR: 1943 VOL: 256 PAGE: 289  
FROM: Charles Lambert Willis and Katheryne J. Willis  
TO : William B. Harper and T. Walter Harper  
NOTES: Same description. This deed creates the 41 foot lot.  
Conveyed to Willis by Willis 1943, 256/121.

There is a local tradition that the structure on this lot was a garage that was moved to this location and converted into a dwelling-house.

YEAR: 1943 VOL: 256 PAGE: 121  
FROM: William H. H. Willis and Louie Owen Willis  
TO : Charles Lambert Willis and Katheryne J. Willis  
NOTES: This is parcel 6 in deed. It is 73 feet on Talbot Street and 120 feet deep on Grace Street; bounded on the N by James T. Morris (formerly Mary J. Morris) and on the W by the heirs of Denny Williams.  
Conveyed to Elizabeth W. Evans by Snyder and Mason 1919, 182/245.

This is the lot on which the Harrison-Leonard Funeral Home (T-243) is located.

YEAR: 1919 VOL: 182 PAGE: 245  
FROM: Howard Austin Snyder and John W. Mason, Executors  
TO : Elizabeth W. Evans  
NOTES: The grantors were the executors of the estate of Mary O. Van Dusen. The lot was 73 feet on Talbot Street by 120 feet on Grace Street. Elizabeth died in 1942 and her estate went to her brothers William H. H. Willis and Charles Lambert Willis. William Willis' part went to Charles Lambert Willis 1943, 256/121 as parcel 6.  
Conveyed to Mary O. Van Dusen by Theron Q. Bruff 1906, 148/363.

T-731

YEAR: 1906 VOL: 148 PAGE: 363

FROM: Theron Q. Bruff (of Philadelphia)

TO : Mary O. Van Dusen

NOTES: 73 feet on Talbot by 120 feet on Grace.

The land was inherited by Theron Q. Bruff from his father, Thomas Bruff.

Thomas Bruff, Sr. 1772-1857 was the oldest of six children of John Bruff, Joiner-Wheelwright. He inherited the Bruff property on Talbot and Grace Streets.

In June, 1895 a fire destroyed the buildings to the north of this lot (T-609, T-610) and a large empty warehouse (known locally as "The Ark") behind the structures on Talbot Street. This was probably the storehouse of Nicholas Orem mentioned in deed 1856, 67/303.

FROM: James Braddock and John Thompson PRICE:

TO: John Bruff

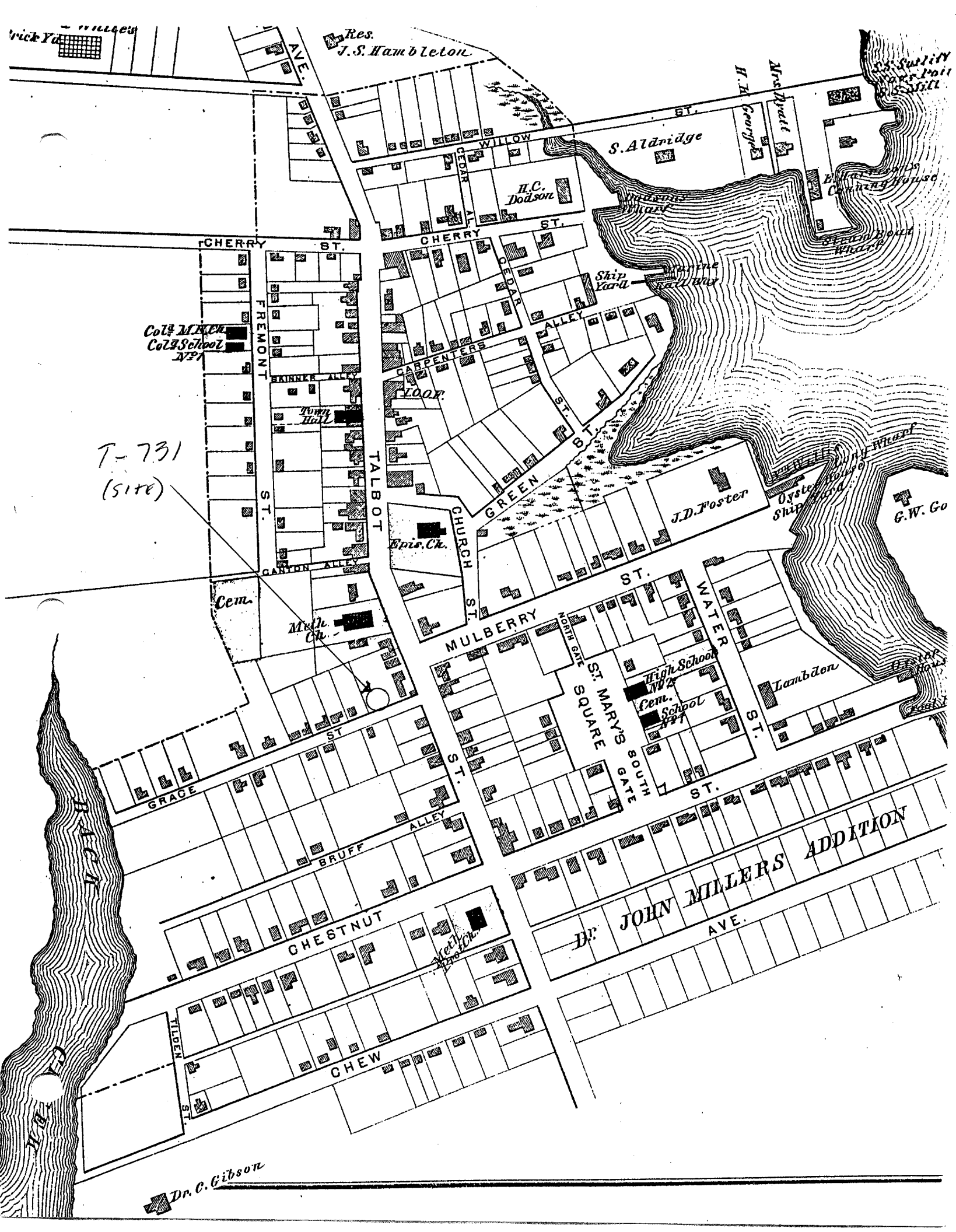
NOTES Between 1781 and 1790, John Bruff wheelwright and joiner, bought three parcels from James Braddock and John Thompson totaling 145 feet on the "main road or Market Street". These have not been definitely located, but the distance on Talbot Street can adequately cover lots from Grace Street to the Sears property. The Town Survey of 1804 notes that the property lines in this area cannot be shown because of problems with the configuration of the lots. The name "Bruff" can be made out in pencil on the original plat of the town in this section. The following deeds are the purchases made by John Bruff on the Main Road:

1781, 21/223 James Braddock to John Bruff p180 sp 60' x 60'

1790, 24/52 John Thompson to John Bruff p15 cm 50' x 60' (on road)  
and another 60'x 25' (on road)

The deeds give the original tracts as "Chance" and/or "Jane's Progress".

Note: John Bruff also bought a lot 297' x 280' about 90 feet back from the main road behind the road frontage lots. (From John Thompson, 1791, 24/276)





T-731  
HARPER COTTAGE  
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle  
1942



T-731

Harper Cottage

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

~~S~~outheast elevation

11/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust